REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview conducted on July 27, 2006.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2-7 and 9-11 have been canceled by this reply. Claims 12-20 have been newly added by this reply. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 8.

Abstract

The Abstract is objected to for including improper legal phraseology. The Abstract has been replaced with a new Abstract and no longer contains phrases such as "embodiments" and "is provided." Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,744,795 ("Imataki") in view of US Patent No. 4.754,319 ("Saito"). Claims 2, 3, and 9 have been canceled by this reply, thus this rejection is now moot with respect to claims 2, 3, 8, and 9. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the remaining amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the Examiner Interview conducted on July 27, 2006, the present invention relates to creating and cutting electronic information supports, such as SIM cards, from a printed card. The method of the present invention is described with reference to Figure 2,

which is attached for the Examiner's reference. Please note that the attached version of Figure 2 is slightly modified from the version originally filed for purposes of explanation.

Specifically, the method of creating electronic information supports begins with a blank printed card (1). The printed card (1) is subsequently milled to form cavities, as shown in step 2, where the cavities are aligned with each other. The cavities are then embedded with modules that include integrated circuits (ICs) (3), as shown in step 3A. After the ICs are embedded into the cavities, a precut line (PL) is marked on the printed card, as shown in step 3B. The precut line is used to distinguish between different types of electronic information supports (EISs). Next, each EIS is cut from the printed card, as shown in steps 4 and 5. Thus, the electronic information support corresponds to a SIM card (or other type of card) that is cut from the printed card. Said another way, the EIS corresponds to a portion of the printed card (1), which is milled to include the IC. Figure 2 shows four distinct electronic information supports (EIS 1 (6), EIS 2 (7), EIS 3 (8), and EIS 4 (9)) that are cut from the original printed card (1).

Independent claims of the present invention have been amended to recite "at least two electronic information supports are cut from the printed card and each of the at least two electronic information supports comprises one selected from the group consisting of the first module and the second module."

Turning to the rejection, the Examiner has admitted that Imataki fails to teach or suggest a second cavity and a second electronic information support (*see* Office Action mailed May 17, 2006, page 3). From the above, it logically follows that Imataki also fails to teach or suggest a second module including an IC that is embedded within the second cavity. Further, Imataki is also completely silent with respect to cutting at least two electronic information supports from a printed card, as recited in the amended independent claims.

With respect to Saito, as discussed during the Examiner Interview, Saito fails to teach that which Imataki lacks. Particularly, Saito relates to a method for manufacturing an IC card. As shown in Figures 2-3 of Saito, Saito teaches forming cavities on a base sheet (*see* Saito, col. 1, ll. 42-62). However, Saito fails to teach or suggest *cutting* from the base sheet at least *two* electronic information supports. In fact, Saito does not teach electronic information supports as recited in the amended claims. Rather, Saito focuses on ICs, and not SIM cards or any other types of card that are constructed using ICs (see Saito Abstract and col. 1, ll. 36-45).

In view of the above, it is clear that amended independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Imataki and Saito, whether considered separately or in combination. Newly added dependent claims 12-20 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Dependent Claims 12-20

Newly added dependent claim 12 recites that the printed card is a right parallelepiped with the format of a smart card defined by an ISO 7816 standard. Applicant asserts that neither Imataki nor Saito teach a printed card in the shape of a right parallelepiped from which electronic information supports are cut. Further, neither Imataki nor Saito teach or suggest a right parallelepiped printed card in accordance with an ISO 7816 smart card format. Thus, dependent claim 12 is patentable over Imataki and Saito, whether considered separately or in combination.

Newly added dependent claims 13 and 20 recite that the electronic information supports are 2G SIM cards. Applicant asserts that neither Imataki nor Saito teach a 2G SIM card that is cut from a printed card. Thus, dependent claims 13 and 20 are patentable over Imataki and Saito, whether considered separately or in combination.

Newly added dependent claims 14, 16, and 17 recite that a precut line is marked on the printed card to distinguish between different types of electronic information supports. For example, the precut line may be used to distinguish between a 2G SIM card and a 3G USIM card. Neither Imataki nor Saito teach or suggest precut line marked on the base sheet or a printed card that is used to distinguish between two different types of electronic information supports. Thus, dependent claims 14, 16, and 17 are patentable over Imataki and Saito, whether considered separately or in combination.

Newly added dependent claims 15 and 18 recite that one of the two electronic information supports conforms to a 2G SIM card format and the other electronic information support conforms to a 3G USIM card format. Again, neither Imataki nor Saito teach a 2G SIM card or a 3G USIM card that is cut from a printed card. Thus, dependent claims 15 and 18 are patentable over Imataki and Saito, whether considered separately or in combination.

Newly added dependent claim 19 recites that the electronic information supports that are cut from the printed card are packaged with an associated insert for delivery to customers. Applicant asserts that neither Imataki nor Saito teaches packaging electronic information supports that are cut from a printed card with an insert. Thus, claim 19 is also patentable over Imataki and Saito, whether considered separately or in combination.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/060001).

Dated: August 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment (Figure 2 from Specification)

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